

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims: Please **amend** the claims as follows:

We claim:

Claims 1.-53. (Cancelled)

Claim 54. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of ergosterol or an intermediate product thereof which is squalene, farnesol, geraniol, lanosterol, zymosterol, 4,4-dimethylzymosterol, 4-methylzymosterol, ergost-7-enol or ergosta-5,7-dienol or a sterol with a 5,7-diene structure, comprising fermenting into ergosterol with a plasmid vector-transformed microorganism, wherein said vector comprises several suitable genes of the ergosterol metabolic process in altered form, wherein the catalytic area of HMG is expressed without its membrane-bonded domain; and the natural promoter of ~~the gene~~ t-HMG, ERG9 and SAT1 gene is replaced by the middle part of ADH1 promoter, the suitable genes being

a-i)

- i) ~~the~~ a gene of the HMG-Co-A-reductase (t-HMG),
- ii) ~~the~~ a gene of the squalene synthetase (ERG9),
- iii) ~~the~~ a gene of the acyl-CoA: sterol-acyltransferase (SAT1), and
- iv) ~~the~~ a gene of squalene epoxidase (ERG1),

or

a-ii)

- i) ~~the~~ a gene of HMG-Co-A-reductase (t-HMG), and
- ii) ~~the~~ a gene of the squalene synthetase (ERG9),

or

a-iii)

- i) ~~the~~ a gene of the HMG-Co-A-reductase (t-HMG), and
- ii) ~~the~~ a gene of the acyl-CoA: sterol-acyltransferase (SAT1),

or

a-iv)

- i) ~~the~~ a gene of the HMG-Co-A-reductase (t-HMG), and
- ii) ~~the~~ a gene of squalene epoxidase (ERG1),

or

a-v)

- i) ~~the~~ a gene of squalene synthetase (ERG9), and
- ii) ~~the~~ a gene of acyl-CoA: sterol-acyltransferase (SAT1)

or

a-vi)

- i) ~~the~~ a gene of squalene synthetase (ERG9), and
- ii) ~~the~~ a gene of squalene epoxidase (ERG1),

or

a-vii)

- iii) i) ~~the~~ a gene of acyl-coA: sterol-acyltransferase (SAT1) and
- ii) ii) ~~the~~ a gene of squalene epoxidase (ERG1),

or

a-viii) at least one of the genes of a-i),

and

analyzing, purifying and isolating the fermented product.

Claim 55. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 54, further comprising ~~the~~ a gene of squalene epoxidase (*ERG1*) in a-ii), a-iii), and a-v), and ~~the~~ a gene of acyl-CoA: sterol-acyltransferase in a-ii).

Claim 56. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 54, wherein the genes in a-i) to a-vii) are introduced, in each case independently of one another, into microorganisms of the same species.

Claim 57. (Cancelled)

Claim 58. (Cancelled)

Claim 59. (Cancelled)

Claim 60. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 54, wherein the microorganism is yeast.

Claim 61. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 60, wherein said yeast is *S. cerevisiae*.

Claim 62. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 61, wherein said yeast is *S. cerevisiae* AH22.

Claim 63. (Previously Presented) Yeast strain *S. cerevisiae* AH22, comprising one or more of the genes mentioned under a-i) of claim 54.

Claim 64. (Cancelled)

Claim 65. (Cancelled)

Claim 66. (Cancelled)

Claim 67. (Cancelled)

Claim 68. (Previously Presented) An expression cassette that comprises the average *ADH* promoter, the *t-HMG* gene, the *TRP* terminator and the *SAT1* gene with the average *ADH* promoter and the *TRP* terminator.

Claim 69. (Previously Presented) An expression cassette comprising the average *ADH* promoter, the *t-HMG* gene, the *TRP* terminator, the *SAT1* gene with the average *ADH* promoter, and the *TRP* terminator, and the *ERG9* gene with the average *ADH* promoter and the *TRP* terminator.

Claim 70. (Previously Presented) A combination of expression cassettes comprising

- a) a first expression cassette, on which the *ADH* promoter, the *t-HMG* gene and the *TRP* terminator are located,
- b) a second expression cassette, on which the *ADH* promoter, the *SAT1* gene and the *TRP* terminator are located,
- and
- c) a third expression cassette, on which the *ADH* promoter, the *ERG9* gene with the *TRP* terminator are located.

Claim 71. (Cancelled)

Claim 72. (Cancelled)

Claim 73. (Previously Presented) A microorganism comprising an expression cassette according to claim 68.

Claim 74. (Previously Presented) A microorganism according to claim 73, which is yeast.

Claim 75. (Cancelled)

Claim 76. (Cancelled)

Claim 77. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 55, wherein the genes are introduced, in each case independently of one another, into microorganisms of the same species.

Claim 78. (Previously Presented) A microorganism comprising an expression cassette according to claim 69.

Claim 79. (Previously Presented) A microorganism comprising a combination according to claim 70.

Claim 80. (Previously Presented) A microorganism according to claim 78, which is yeast.

Claim 81. (Previously Presented) A microorganism according to claim 79, which is yeast.